

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

636836

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Berente Nitrogen Works	DATE DISTR.	9 August 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Location.

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- The area where the Nitrogen Works are being built is about 2-3 km. south-east of Kazincbarcika railroad station, about 100 m. southwest of the concrete road Miskolc-Kazincbarcika. The distance from the works to Miskolc is about 18-20 km.
- In the north, east, and southeast the area around the works is comparatively flat, in the southwest it rises to wooded mountains. About 700 m. northeast of the works the river Sajó flows from northwest to southeast.
- Good landmarks are the villages of Berente (about 700 m. south of the works), Kazincbarcika (about 2 km. northwest of the works) and the single-track railroad line Miskolc-Kazincbarcika-Ozd (about 100 m. northeast of the works). The nearest railroad station is Berente, about 300 m. east of the works.

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2. History.

Leveling work and digging of the foundation was started in 1950. Actual construction work was only started in October 1951, but by summer 1953 the majority of the buildings had been completed. At the same time the workers (internees and forced laborers) were removed from the factory area and its neighborhood.

3. Production.

It was learned that the production program will be similar to that of the Nitrogen Works in Pet.

4. Description.

The works area is about 1,000 x 400 m. in size. There are the following

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25X1

- 2 -

buildings:

- a. Administration building (No. 3), three stories, about 120 x 20 m. with a flat roof.
 - b. Hall (No. 8) for rinsing ("separating") the raw materials. The hall is equipped with a number of water tanks which are fed from the Sajó River.
 - c. Hall (No. 7), where hydrogen is produced, five stories, about 40 x 20m.
 - d. Hall (No. 9), about 25 x 15m., known as absorbing installation.
 - e. Hall (No. 11), about 25 x 20m. five stories, which houses the oxygen plant.
 - f. Hall (No. 10), about 25 x 15m., to be used for desulphurization.
 - g. Hall (No. 34), about 30 x 20m., called the oxygen plant. The mechanical equipment was supplied by East Germany and the machines were installed by German workers from East Germany.
 - h. Desulphurization plant (No. 35). On the concrete roof (about 70 x 25m.) there are about 10 cylindrical-shaped containers.
 - i. Cooling house (No. 12), three stories, about 25 x 20m.
 - j. Cooling towers (Nos. 19 and 20), concrete construction.
 - k. Boiler houses (Nos. 10 and 21), each about 25 x 15m. The boilers are old boilers from former Danube ships.
 - l. Round tower (No. 5), about 20 m. high, about 8-10m. in diameter, use not known; was called "Szorotorony" (in Hungarian) by the workers.
 - m. Tower (No. 6), same size as No. 5, use not known. Called "stone-crushing tower" by the workers.
 - n. Laboratory (No. 22), 30 x 18 m. three stories.
 - o. Workshop and depot (No. 23), about 60 x 30 m. A branch line of the industrial railroad leads to this building.
 - p. Gasometers (Nos. 24, 31, 33 and 36).
 - q. Hall (No. 27), about 70 x 30 m. five stories. Hydrogen and oxygen production plants are to be installed here.
 - r. Towers (Nos. 28, 29, 30). Use not known.
 - s. Coking plant (No. 37).
 - t. Various buildings (Nos. 25 and 26) which were started in summer 1953.
5. Supply of Current, Coal and Water.
- a. The works is to be supplied with current by the new power station which lies northeast of the works between the railroad line and the Sajó River. In the works itself are four transformer stations (Nos. 13, 14, 17, and 32), each about 25 x 15 m. and two-three storied. One of the stations (No. 14) is equipped with the switchboard and the current distributors for the entire works. While the works was under construction a temporary transformer station (No. 15) was used.
 - b. Coal is supplied by the coal mines west of the works. In summer 1953 cable railroads were being built for transporting coal.

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- 3 -

- c. Water is supplied by the Sajó River. In the factory area is a water tower (No. 18). The waste water is diverted to the Sajó.

6. Transport.

- a. Berente railroad station which lies about 300 m. southeast of the works is being extended. From this station an industrial track leads to the factory area (for alignment of the track see sketch). Another industrial track branches off from the main railroad line north of the works and also leads to the factory.
- b. The new concrete approach road (No. 4) branches off from the main road Miskolc-Kazincbarcika north of the works.

7. Workers.

Construction work was carried out by about 1,200 internees and forced laborers. Up to summer 1953 these workers were quartered in four buildings (No. 42), each about 60 x 20 m., four stories, which are later to be used as flats for the workers employed in the works. While the factory was being constructed it was an internment camp administrated by the AVH. Commander of the camp was the AVH Captain Csillag (fnu).

8. Guards and Security.

The works area is surrounded by a wire fence (No. 45) strengthened with barbed wire on concrete poles. While under construction the area was guarded by AVH sentries who moved outside the area. All entrances were also guarded by AVH sentries. The AVH guard unit (about 100-120 men) is quartered in a two-story barracks (No. 43), about 40 x 20 m. situated on the approach road (No. 40).

Legend to the sketch of the Nitrogen Works near Berente.

1. Main entrance
2. Administration building
3. Dining room and kitchen
4. Store shed, about 100 x 30m. and 27 m. high, constructed of shaped bricks, later to be used as a depot for finished products.
5. Tower
6. Tower
7. Works hall
8. Works hall
9. Works hall
10. Boiler house
11. Works hall
12. Boiler house
13. Transformer station

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- 4 -

14. Transformer station
15. Temporary transformer station
16. Works hall
17. Transformer station
18. Water tower
19. Cooling tower
20. Cooling tower
21. Boiler house
22. Laboratory
23. Works hall and store shed
24. Gasometer
25. Unfinished building
26. Unfinished building
27. Works hall
- 28, 29, 30. Towers
31. Gasometer
32. Transformer station
33. Gasometer
- 34, 35. Works hall
36. Gasometer
37. Coking plant
38. Railroad line inside the works area
39. Railroad line outside the works area
40. Approach road
41. Side entrance
42. Flats for workers
43. AVH barracks
44. Small coal mine
45. Wire fence
46. Deciduous wood
47. Sinko mountain

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- 5 -

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48. Elő mountain
49. Flat country
50. The Sajó River
51. Kazincbarcika railroad station
52. Berente railroad station
53. Concrete road with parallel running high-tension line.

Annex: Sketch map of the Berente Nitrogen Works (1 page)

Comment:

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The Nitrogen Works near Berente belong to the group of industrial works under construction which include the new coal-sorting plant in Kazincbarcika and the new Power Station in Kazincbarcika.

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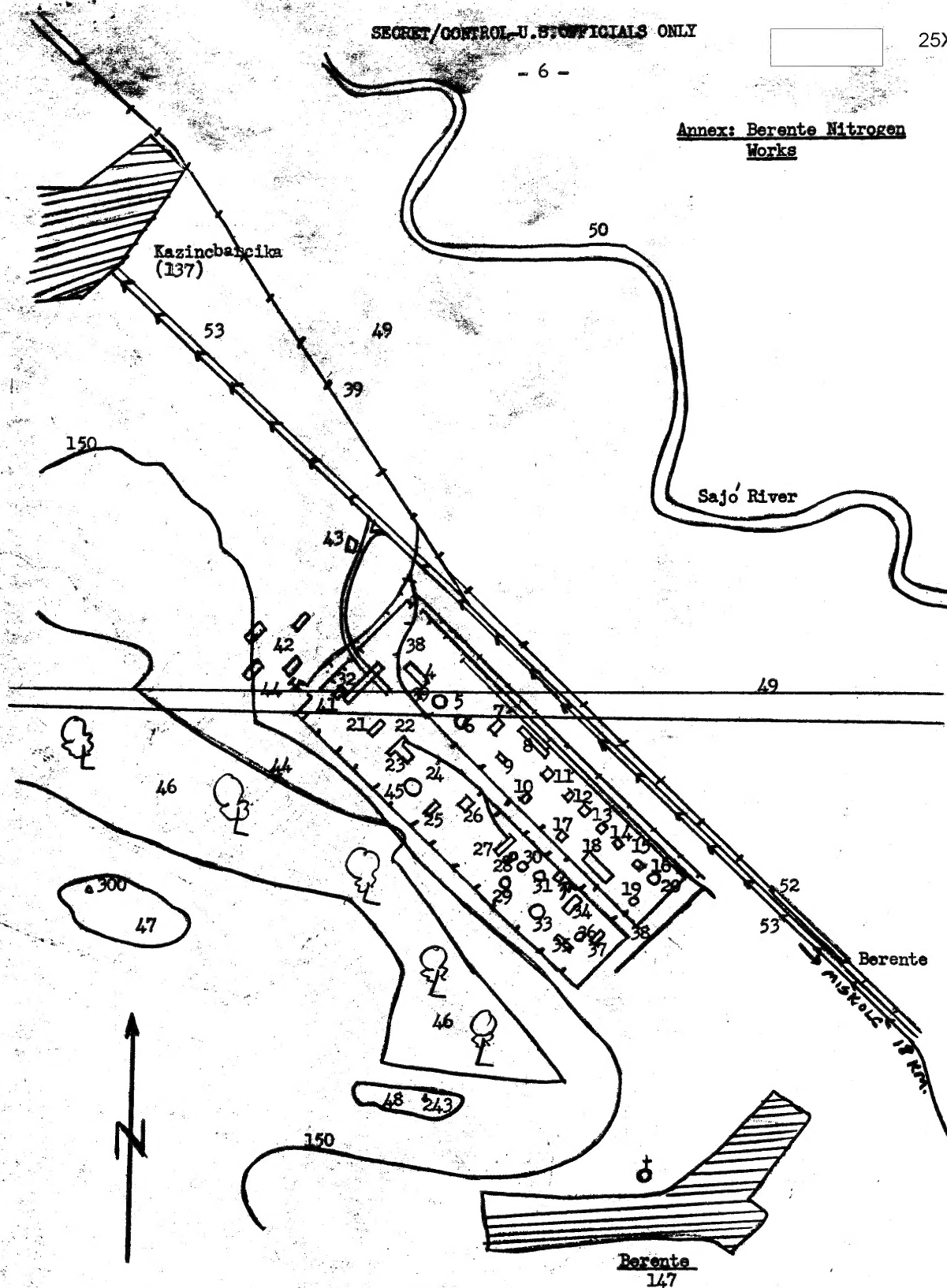
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- 6 -

Annex: Berente Nitrogen Works



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